

**From:** C Lovejoy  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 10:00pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Regarding the Microsoft Settlement:

As a long time user and early adopter of personal computers, I believe that the Microsoft settlement is fair and we the people, including the US Government should move on to more productive use of tax dollars. Microsoft has clearly demonstrated actions and willingness to do more than required to ensure a competitive environment. The reason Microsoft products have done well is through hard work and constant improvement to win out! For example, let's remember the early spreadsheet "war":  
First there was VisiCalc - an instant hit in the market  
Then there was Lotus 123, which took the lead through improved features.  
Later there was Borland's product that had great graphics and could emulate 123 to make a switch easy (I think Lotus tried the legal means to stop Borland from using 123 menus.)  
Microsoft tried to beat out Lotus 123 with Excel, but lost on the first try because the product was not attractive to users  
It took a lot of R&D, and 4 versions before Excel from Microsoft could offer better features. I was a devoted 123 user and thought I would never consider Excel. Eventually the features of Excel got so good I gave it a try and finally converted as it could help me more at work and home projects.  
I went through the same experience with the Netscape browser. It took a lot of convincing and product revisions, but I finally found the features in Microsoft Explorer and continued improvements to Explorer better. My decision was based on features, not price (both were free). If Netscape and later AOL/Netscape had put more R&D into the product, it would still be on the top of my list!  
So please, put all this to one side and move on. Perhaps in the future some other product will win my respect... Until then, I go for the best featured product, regardless of the creator!

Charlie Lovejoy

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